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Davie County Commissioners vote to align with Partners Health Management

Mocksville, NC [July 14, 2021]– In a June 29, 2021 special meeting of the Davie County Board of Commissioners, the board unanimously voted and announced their intent to transition the management of intellectual/developmental disabilities and behavioral health services from Cardinal Innovations Healthcare to Partners Health Management.

When asked about the decision to transition from Cardinal to Partners, Davie County's Director of Health and Human Services, Suzanne Wright, explained the decision was both thoughtful and deliberate. "Prior to Cardinal announcing its consolidation with Vaya Health on June 1, 2021, Davie County began meeting with other Local Management Entities/Managed Care Organization (LME/MCO) options for its residents. A committee of stakeholders met with and interviewed multiple LME/MCOs before recommending Partners Health Management to the Davie County Health and Human Services Board and Board of County Commissioners. Partners serves several surrounding counties and has a solid reputation for outstanding customer service, community involvement and providing quality care. The local stakeholders committee also looked for an LME/MCO with a connection and commitment to Davie County, strong utilization management and care coordination practices and a robust provider network. We look forward to engaging with an LME/MCO 'partner' that is committed to the care and well-being of residents with mental illness, intellectual and developmental disabilities and substance use disorders."

Partners is one of seven local management entities/managed care organizations (LME/MCOs) in North Carolina. The NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) contracts with LME/MCOs to manage behavioral health care services paid with federal, state and local taxes, including Medicaid, state and county funding and grants. Until the final transition is made to Partners, services for Davie County residents will be managed through Cardinal Innovations.

"We are honored by the confidence that Davie County's leadership has expressed in their decision to align with Partners," said Partners CEO Rhett Melton. "Our name is intentional. We see ourselves as a partner in providing access to care that is tailored to the needs of each county we serve, and look

forward to partnering with the county, members, families, providers and stakeholders to Improve Lives and Strengthen Communities.”

Davie County Manager, David Bone, explained the next steps in the transition to Partners. “County staff will have a draft Disengagement Plan ready for the Board’s consideration at the Aug. 2 Board of Commissioners meeting. If the draft plan is approved on Aug. 2, the plan will be posted to the county website and Davie County will seek public comment on the plan for 60 days. Following this public comment period, the county will post all responses for an additional 30 days. Davie County will take into consideration feedback received, revise the Disengagement Plan (as appropriate), and will submit a written request to disengage to the Secretary of NCDHHS.”

Counties who request to realign with a different local management entity/managed care organization (LME/MCO) must obtain the approval of the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. To learn more about the County Disengagement Rules, please visit <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/mhddsas/lme-mcos>.

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